

To: Gomez, Kendra[Gomez.Kendra@epa.gov]
From: Bokun, Lisa
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 4:31:46 PM
Subject: RE: HASP for Gold King Mine Spill

I wish I could give you an explanation other than to say the mindset here is to pay attention to H&S only when nothing is going on instead of all the time, especially when there is a response like this one. This thing is going to be huge Kendra – the phones are blowing up here in XA and the Press has gone wild. People are demanding to know what toxins may be in the river which, as we know, is right where EPA personnel are being deployed. This again reminds us that ALL of the potential responders should already be pre-screened on some sort of regular basis so at least we know that piece has been done before they send people out. Ronnie really should be ashamed of himself because he absolutely knows better – and why they put Kenneth in the REOC instead of contacting you, I can't say unless they are purposely trying to avoid having to deal with what they know you would be saying (what you said below in your message). That purposeful avoidance is what Troy and James need to deal with at their level. The Region is really unprepared to deal with response and when something happens, they will have no one but themselves to blame.

From: Gomez, Kendra
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Bokun, Lisa
Subject: RE: HASP for Gold King Mine Spill

I spoke to Verne about it because Troy and James weren't available. Verne just told me to document! UGH. So Im going to have a little discussion with Troy this afternoon. I cant tell you how frustrated I am right now. Ronnie even said that he knew better...hes just negated the procedures!

And for them to have Kenneth in the REOC...when I'm the one on the REOC team? I don't get it Lisa!

From: Bokun, Lisa
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:59 AM
To: Gomez, Kendra
Subject: RE: HASP for Gold King Mine Spill

Learned David Garcia is deploying tomorrow as the liaison for water and several water folks are being called up as well. What are James/Troy saying? Are they supportive?

From: Gomez, Kendra

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:43 AM

To: Loesel, Matthew; Foster, Althea; Martin, John

Cc: Shewmake, Kenneth; Crossland, Ronnie; McFarland, Verne; Hill, Troy

Subject: HASP for Gold King Mine Spill

Good Morning All,

I just finished speaking with Ronnie regarding the stand-up of the REOC for the Gold King Mine spill. I'm discouraged to learn that I was not notified of the stand-up on behalf of the Health & Safety Office. From my understanding, John Martin placed me as the REOC Safety Manager for incidents like these to ensure that people deploying into the field met all H&S requirements.

Unfortunately, I was not notified of employee's deployment over the weekend.

I learned from Ronnie, this morning, that several OSCs and 2 water team members deployed over the weekend and several are set to deploy today. As the Regional Health & Safety Officer, I'm very concerned about whether employee records have been checked to ensure they meet all H&S requirements. In addition, I'm concerned that personnel, not on the Occupational Medical Surveillance Program (OMSP), have not received their pre-screening exams from the FOH Clinic prior to their deployment. From my conversation with Ronnie, I do not believe these areas have been addressed; therefore, opening ourselves to a massive liability.

Ronnie provided me with a short list of names who deployed in support of this response. They are:

Jhana Enders - OSC

Jon Rinehart -OSC

Mark Hayes - OSC

Bryant Smalley - OSC

Mark McCasland – Water Team

Jenna Manheimer – Water Team

After reviewing their H&S records, I have found that Jenna Manheimer is required to have a pre-screening exam prior to deployment due to her potential exposures during sampling activities. I recommend Jenna be returned to the office as she does not meet all H&S requirements. Several of the OSCs will be due for their annual exam this month, but have yet to expire.

As a reminder, please notify me of all personnel with the potential to deploy so that I may review necessary records and provide authorization from a H&S standpoint. I have my cell phone on me at all times, so please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

Kendra C. Gomez

Kendra C. Gomez

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From: Loesel, Matthew

Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 2:18 PM

To: Gomez, Kendra; Foster, Althea; Martin, John

Cc: Shewmake, Kenneth

Subject: HASP for Gold King Mine Spill

Please see attached

Matt Loesel

US EPA Region 6

RCRA Data and Training Coordinator

214-665-8544